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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)

Assessment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 19 of its resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to undertake, in light of the review of the mandate of the Commission on Human Settlements, referred to in paragraph 17 of the same resolution, "a comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements with a view to its revitalization, to present terms of reference and a preliminary report on this assessment for the consideration of the Commission at its sixteenth session and to make a final report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session".

2. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General submitted a preliminary report (HS/C/16/5) to the Commission at its sixteenth session, which contained, inter alia, the proposed terms of reference for the report and noted that the assessment would be undertaken under the guidance of the Executive Coordinator for United Nations reform.

3. Following its consideration of the report, the Commission adopted resolution 16/8 entitled "Revitalization of the Habitat Centre".[1] Paragraph 1 of that resolution contains a list of guiding principles that the Commission requested the Secretary-General to take into account in the preparation of the assessment. (See also A/52/181, paras. 11-13.)

4. The Secretary-General has initiated work on the assessment. However, given the transition in the executive leadership of the Centre, and since the exercise

needs to be completed in the light of the ongoing process of reform of the United Nations, the Secretary-General now intends to submit the final report on the assessment to the Assembly at its fifty-third session, in accordance with his report on renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform (see A/51/950, sect. V.D, action 12).

Notes

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/52/8), annex I.